

Telephone :
DOUglas 0286-7-8

ROYAL BEATSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

(Formerly Glasgow Royal Cancer Hospital)

132-138 HILL STREET,

GLASGOW, C.3.

10th March 1953.

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

Very many Thanks for your letter and most interesting reprint which adds another viewpoint and new information to a complicated subject. I enclose the reprint you ask for.

One of my objects in publishing in 1949 was to provoke thought and discussion on whether the explanation of cancerous growth required the assumption of a stimulus to account for continuous cell division. I favoured such an assumption. But I know that many general biologists do not. They think there has been a removal of restraint, that is to say that unless restrained any living cell will divide perpetually given adequate conditions for nutrition. Some work that may reconcile both viewpoints is coming along, perhaps. You will find a reference that may interest you in a short comment in the Lancet 1952 Vol II, 73, in a leading article on New Ideas in Cancer Research para. 3, on p. 74.

As you are interested in the subject of

autonomous growth, I wonder if you would not consider investigating a plant tumour virus which infects Nicotiana. you will find previous work under P.R. White (Princeton) from 1939 onwards, later with A.C. Braun. It would be interesting to know the chemical products of the multiplication of this virus.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

B. D. Pullinger.